

Quarterly Progress Report

Project Name: Parker Mountain Sage-grouse

Utah State University Project Control Number:

Period Covered: October 1 to December 31, 2003.

Project Investigators: David Dahlgren and Terry Messmer

Agency Contract Number: 020225

Submitted to: Dean Mitchell, Upland Game Coordinator, UDWR

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Narrative:

In November we had two PARM meetings at the Loa County Courthouse. The first meeting was an emergency meeting to discuss the ACEC on Parker Mountain, which was proposed by the BLM to the USFWS. A week later the regular PARM meeting was held. Transplanting of hens, which took place last spring, was discussed again. PARM members agreed to allow BYU to transplant another 30-40 hens to Strawberry Valley in the spring of 2004. The ACEC was discussed again and PARM members put a letter together to give to the BLM. The intent of the letter was to not have the ACEC designation on Parker Mountain, as PARM members felt their management plan would suffice. But if the ACEC designation took place then PARM recommended that their management plan be used for the ACEC.

Data that was collected during the last field season was compiled and worked on at USU. Some of that data was presented at the PARM meeting for members to see what was taking place. The bird dog counts and pellet counts were of particular note. The counts showed that the spike treatments had the highest grouse use and particularly high brood use. The data was also used by the county extension agent, Verl Bagely, to amend a habitat manipulation contract to include spike as an alternative treatment type. This work is to be done on the remaining acreage on SITLA property above the Parker Lake experimental pasture.

For the next quarter data will continue to be processed. A PARM meeting is planned for late January.